

22 NOV 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director, National Urban League, Inc.

1. The appointment with Mr. Jordan was arranged by Mr. Chauncey L. Waddell, a long-time Agency and personal contact who has been active in black educational and philanthropic activities over a period of many years. The contact took place on 14 November 1974 in Mr. Jordan's office at the headquarters of the National Urban League, Inc., 55 E. 52nd St., New York City.

2. Although my approach to Mr. Jordan was specifically on behalf of the CT Program, I couched my presentation in general terms in order to cover the overall needs of the Agency for black professionals. Having identified my purpose as seeking Mr. Jordan's assistance and advice regarding the attraction of an increased number of qualified young blacks to careers in CIA, I stated that the Agency faced a special problem in the widespread public misunderstanding of its mission and functions. Mr. Jordan interjected that he felt that the Agency's image throughout the country was "terrible" in both white and black communities, but he had no suggestions about solving our public relations problem.

3. He made clear that despite our public image he understood and accepted the need for and role of the Agency. He coupled his offer to assist us with his personal rationale for his cooperation. He noted that CIA represented one of the elements of power in the conduct of our foreign affairs, and he wanted to see blacks in any profession where they could wield power. He felt that there was an ever larger pool of blacks, being educated in both black and non-black colleges, who aspired to careers in foreign affairs, and he saw no reason why CIA should not be able to attract a portion of this group to its professional ranks. He mentioned the League's program for identifying candidates for the three service academies and suggested similar assistance might be arranged for CIA.


4. When I briefly described the CT Program and its place in our hiring program, he identified Mr. Mahlon T. Puryear, Director of the League's Economic Development Department and a very senior officer, as the point of contact for discussion of our specific needs with respect to the CTP and other professional-level employment. He indicated he would speak to Mr. Puryear, who was out of town, and identify my particular interest in CTP.

5. Mr. Jordan raised a question about the possibilities for lateral entry for blacks at higher levels (he mentioned GS-16). I pointed out that the number of openings at all professional levels was limited because the Agency was shrinking through attrition; and that while lateral entrance was provided for in our personnel structure this method of employment was not my responsibility. I simply suggested that the number of senior-level openings would probably be very limited. His interest in this aspect of our personnel practice was clear, and I suggest that any other Agency official who sees Mr. Jordan in the future be prepared to deal with this issue in specific terms.

6. I mentioned the Agency's program for inviting black educational leaders to Langley for "A Day at CIA" and inquired whether he thought it would be useful for him and any senior members of his staff to be included in a similar program. He said that the League, of course, had to avoid any posture of advocacy on behalf of CIA or any other one organization and he felt, therefore, that it was inappropriate for him or other senior League officials to participate in such a program.

7. Mr. Jordan did, however, express a definite interest in meeting, and perhaps lunching with, the Director. Although I had not mentioned this possibility, my reference to the Director's strongly-expressed interest in positive steps to attract blacks to the Agency caught his attention and prompted him to bring up the matter. Mr. Jordan is a very dynamic personality who is used to dealing at the most senior levels, and his initiative in this respect is not unusual. I indicated that I would convey the substance of our discussion to the Director and that I was certain he would look forward to meeting with Mr. Jordan as soon as their respective schedules permitted.

SIGNED


OTR/CTP/Program Officer

STAT

cc: DTR

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Remarks:

We had two meetings with [redacted] before he saw Mr. Jordan. It helped a lot.

Now

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